
APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE WATER JUDGE
Prepared by Office of Court Administrator, Montana Supreme Court
May 24, 2011

- **HB 2** transferred from DNRC \$380,286 in state special revenue spending authority and 3.5 FTE for 2013 biennium to the Water Court.
- The 3.5 FTE includes the following positions and start dates:

Position	Start Date	FTE
Deputy Court Clerk	July 1, 2011	0.5
Water Master	January 1, 2012	1.0
Associate Water Judge	July 1, 2012	1.0
Law Clerk	July 1, 2012	1.0
TOTAL		3.5

- **HB 587** authorizes the Chief Justice to appoint an Associate Water Judge from a list of nominees submitted by the Judicial Nomination Commission.
- The Associate Water Judge has the same duties and responsibilities as the Chief Water Judge except that the Chief Water Judge will manage administrative matters and assign the Associate Water Judge to divisions and cases.
- The proposed appointment schedule is:
 - February 2012: Applications solicited for Associate Water Judge
 - March 2012: Public comment on applicants accepted
 - May 2012: Names submitted to Chief Justice by Judicial Nomination Commission
 - June 2012: Appointment made by Chief Justice
 - July 1, 2012: Associate Water Judge takes office